

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed Month October 20, 2003, claims 1-3, 5-6, 15-17 and 19 have been cancelled and claims 4, 14 and 18 have been amended. Claims 7-13 and 20-25 have been previously withdrawn. Accordingly, Claims 4, 14 and 18 are now active in this application, of which claims 4, 14 and 18 are independent.

The Office Action indicates that claims 4, 14 and 18 are objected to but would be allowable if present in independent form.

Entry of the Amendments and Remarks is respectfully requested because entry of Amendment places the present application in condition for allowance, or in the alternative, better form for appeal. No new matters are believed to be added by these Amendments.

Based on the above Amendments and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding objections and rejections and they be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5 and 15-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,926,235 issued to Han, *et al.* ("Han") in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,128,786 issued to Yanagisawa ("Yanagisawa"), and further in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,956,103 issued to Ishiguro ("Ishiguro"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In this response, claims 1, 2, 5, 15 and 16 have been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection over claims 1, 2, 5, 15 and 16 be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 6 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over Han in view of Yanagisawa, further in view of Ishiguro, and further in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,297,862 to Murade (“Murade”) . This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In this response, claims 6 and 19 have been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection over claims 6 and 19 be withdrawn.

Other Matters

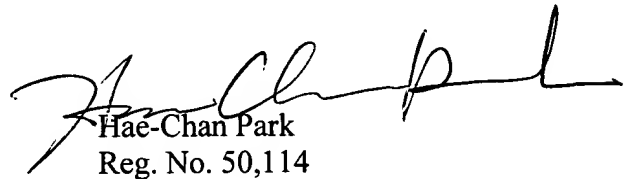
In this response, allowable dependent claims 4, 14 and 18 have been amended to present in independent form.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, claims 4, 14 and 18 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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